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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

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In re Patent No. 7,487,918	:	DECISION ON REQUEST FOR
KUDO et al.	:	RECONSIDERATION OF
Issue Date: February 10, 2009	:	PATENT TERM ADJUSTMENT
Application No. 10/529,609	:	AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO ISSUE
Filed: March 30, 2005	:	CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION
Docket No. 5077-000238/NP	:	

This is in response to the PETITION UNDER RULE 1.705, filed March 24, 2009, which is properly treated under 37 CFR 1.705(d). Patentees request that the determination of patent term adjustment for the above-identified patent be corrected from five hundred seventy-five (575) days to seven hundred eleven (711) days.

The request for reconsideration of the patent term adjustment indicated in the patent is GRANTED to the extent indicated herein.

Patentees are given **THIRTY (30) DAYS or ONE (1) MONTH, whichever is longer**, from the mail date of this decision to respond. No extensions of time will be granted under 37 CFR 1.136.

The patent term adjustment indicated on the patent is to be corrected by issuance of a certificate of correction showing a revised Patent Term Adjustment of **563 days**.

On February 10, 2009, the above-identified application matured into U.S. Patent No. 7,487,918. The patent issued with a revised patent term adjustment of 575 days. The present request for reconsideration of patent term adjustment was timely filed on March 24, 2009, within two months of the issue date of the patent. See 37 CFR 1.705(d).

Patentees aver that the correct number of days of patent term adjustment is 711 days under the court's interpretation of the

overlap provision as set forth in Wyeth v. Dudas, 580 F. Supp. 2d 138, 88 U.S.P.Q.2d 1538 (D.D.C. 2008). Specifically, patentee state that:

[p]ursuant to the ruling in Wyeth v. Dudas (DC Sept. 2008), Applicant hereby petition under Rule 1.705 for a corrected Patent Term Adjustment of an additional 136 days since the present Patent did not issue within 36 months of the filing date, namely, by March 30, 2008. The corrected Patent Term Adjustment should now equal 711 days.

Petition under Rule 1.705, filed March 24, 2009, p. 1.

At the outset, the Office noted that the period of delay of 575 days, pursuant to 37 CFR 1.702(a)(1), for the Office failing to mail at least one notification under 35 U.S.C. 132 or a notice of allowance under 35 U.S.C. 151 not later than fourteen months after the date on which the application was filed under 35 U.S.C. 111(a) or fulfilled the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 371 in an international application¹ is incorrect. A review of the record indicates that the Office did not use the correct 35 U.S.C. 371(b) national stage completion, or fulfillment date, in calculating the period of adjustment under 37 CFR 1.703(a)(1). As stated in 37 CFR 1.703(a)(1), the period of adjustment under § 1.702(a) is the number of days in the period beginning on the day after the date that is fourteen months after the date on which the application was filed under 35 U.S.C. 111(a) or fulfilled the requirements under 35 U.S.C. 371 and ending on the date of mailing of either an action under 35 U.S.C. 132, or a notice of allowance under 35 U.S.C. 151, whichever occurs first. Accordingly, Monday, April 11, 2005, is the date that should be used to calculate the examination delay under 37 CFR 1.703(a).

¹ 37 CFR 1.702 provides grounds for adjustment of patent term due to examination delay under the Patent Term Guarantee Act of 1999 (original applications, other than designs, filed on or after May 29, 2000).

(a) Failure to take certain actions within specified time frames. Subject to the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 154(b) and this subpart, the term of an original patent shall be adjusted if the issuance of the patent was delayed due to the failure of the Office to:

(1) Mail at least one notification under 35 U.S.C. 132 or a notice of allowance under 35 U.S.C. 151 not later than fourteen months after the date on which the application was filed under 35 U.S.C. 111(a) or fulfilled the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 371 in an international application;

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.703(a)(1), the period of adjustment under 37 CFR 1.702(a) should be 563 days, counting the number of days beginning on the day after the date that is fourteen months after the date on which the application fulfilled the requirements under 35 U.S.C. 371, April 11, 2005, and ending on the date of mailing of the non-final Office action, December 26, 2007. Accordingly, the period of adjustment of 575 days is being removed and a period of adjustment of 563 days is being entered.

As to patentees' interpretation of the period of overlap, the Office finds it inconsistent with the Office's interpretation of the overlap provision, 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(2)(A). 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(2)(A) limits the adjustment of patent term, as follows:

to the extent that the periods of delay attributable to grounds specified in paragraph (1) overlap, the period of any adjustment granted under this subsection shall not exceed the actual number of days the issuance of the patent was delayed.

As explained in *Explanation of 37 CFR 1.703(f)*² and of the United States Patent and Trademark Office Interpretation of 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(2)(A), 69 Fed. Reg. 34283 (June 21, 2004), the Office interprets 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(2)(A) as permitting either patent term adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(1)(A)(i)-(iv), or patent term adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(1)(B), but not as permitting patent term adjustment under both 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(1)(A)(i)-(iv) and 154(b)(1)(B). Accordingly, the Office implements the overlap provision as follows:

If an application is entitled to an adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(1)(B), the entire period during which the application was pending (except for periods excluded under 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(1)(B)(i)-(iii)), and not just the period beginning three years after the actual filing date of the application, is the period of delay under 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(1)(B) in determining whether periods of delay overlap under 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(2)(A). Thus, any days of delay for

² Likewise, 37 CFR 1.703(f) provides that:

To the extent that periods of delay attributable to the grounds specified in § 1.702 overlap, the period of adjustment granted under this section shall not exceed the actual number of days the issuance of the patent was delayed.

Office issuance of the patent more than 3 years after the filing date of the application, which overlap with the days of patent term adjustment accorded prior to the issuance of the patent will not result in any additional patent term adjustment. See 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(1)(B), 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(2)(A), and 37 CFR § 1.703(f). See *Changes to Implement Patent Term Adjustment Under Twenty Year Term; Final Rule*, 65 Fed. Reg. 54366 (Sept. 18, 2000). See also *Revision of Patent Term Extension and Patent Term Adjustment Provisions; Final Rule*, 69 Fed. Reg. 21704 (April 22, 2004), 1282 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 100 (May 18, 2004). See also *Explanation of 37 CFR 1.703(f) and of the United States Patent and Trademark Office Interpretation of 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(2)(A)*, 69 Fed. Reg. 34283 (June 21, 2004).

Further, as stated in the *Explanation of 37 CFR 1.703(f) and of the United States Patent and Trademark Office Interpretation of 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(2)(A)*, the Office has consistently taken the position that if an application is entitled to an adjustment under the three-year pendency provision of 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(1)(B), the entire period during which the application was pending before the Office (except for periods excluded under 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(1)(B)(i)-(iii)), and not just the period beginning three years after the actual filing date of the application, is the relevant period under 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(1)(B) in determining whether periods of delay "overlap" under 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(2)(A).

This interpretation is consistent with the statute. Taken together the statute and rule provide that to the extent that periods of delay attributable to grounds specified in 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(1) and in corresponding 37 CFR 1.702 overlap, the period of adjustment granted shall not exceed the actual number of days the issuance of the patent was delayed.

In this instance, the relevant period under 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(1)(B) in determining whether periods of delay "overlap" under 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(2)(A) is the period during which the application was pending before the Office (not including any periods excluded under 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(1)(B)(i)-(iii)).

Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(1)(A) and 37 CFR 1.702(a)(1), 563 days of patent term adjustment were accorded during the pendency of the application for Office delay prior to the issuance of the patent. Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(1)(B) and 37 CFR 1.702(b), 124 days of patent term adjustment accrued for Office issuance of

the patent more than three years after the date the national stage commenced under 35 U.S.C. 371(b) on April 11, 2005³.

The 124 days of patent term adjustment under 37 CFR 1.702(b) overlap with the 563 days of patent term adjustment under 37 CFR 1.702(a)(1). Entry of both the 563 days and the 124 days is neither permitted nor warranted. 563 days is the actual number of days issuance of the patent was delayed. Accordingly, no additional days of patent term adjustment for the Office failing to issue the patent within three years will be entered.

In view of the additional period of adjustment pursuant to 37 CFR 1.702(a)(1), the patent term adjustment indicated on the patent should be 563 days.

The Office acknowledges the submission of the \$200.00 fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.18(e). No additional fees are required.

The patent file is being forwarded to the Certificates of Correction Branch for issuance of a certificate of correction in order to rectify this error. The Office will issue a certificate of correction indicating that the term of the above-identified patent is extended or adjusted by 563 days.

³ Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(1)(B), 37 CFR 1.702(b) provides:

Failure to issue a patent within three years of the actual filing date of the application. Subject to the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 154(b) and this subpart, the term of an original patent shall be adjusted if the issuance of the patent was delayed due to the failure of the Office to issue a patent within three years after the date on which the application was filed under 35 U.S.C. 111(a) or the national stage commenced under 35 U.S.C. 371(b) or (f) in an international application, but not including:

- (1) Any time consumed by continued examination of the application under 35 U.S.C. 132(b);
- (2) Any time consumed by an interference proceeding under 35 U.S.C. 135(a);
- (3) Any time consumed by the imposition of a secrecy order under 35 U.S.C. 181;
- (4) Any time consumed by review by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences or a Federal court; or
- (5) Any delay in the processing of the application by the Office that was requested by the applicant.

Telephone inquiries regarding this matter should be directed to Kenya A. McLaughlin, Petitions Attorney (571) 272-3222.

Christina Tartera Donnell

Christina Tartera Donnell
Senior Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions

Enclosure: Copy of DRAFT Certificate of Correction

DRAFT COPY

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

PATENT : 7,487,918 B2

DATED : Feb. 10, 2009

INVENTOR(S) : Kudo, et al.

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

On the cover page,

[*] Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 USC 154(b) by (575) days

Delete the phrase "by 575 days" and insert – by 563 days--